

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1615

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS,PEPR,CY,EG,US
SUBJ: GREEK NEWSPAPER ALLEGES U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LARNACA
INCIDENT

1. THOSE FOLLOWING GREEK AFFAIRS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE
OFTEN IRRESPONSIBLE AND SENSATIONALISH TREATMENT OF
CERTAIN ISSUES BY SOME GREEK NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE QUICK
TO SEIZE ON ANY PRETEXT TO ATTACK THE UNITED
STATES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INDIRECT REFERENCES
IN THE GREEK PRESS IN RECENT DAYS TO A SUPPOSED
AMERICAN ROLE IN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS AT LARNACA LAST
WEEKEND, AN ARTICLE IN OPPOSITION LEFTIST TA NEA,
FEBRUARY 23, CARRIES WHAT IS THE MOST SPECIFIC ALLEGATION
ABOUT DIRECT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT THAT WE HAVE SEEN SO
FAR. PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM THE ARTICLE ARE GIVEN
BELOW. (EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.)

2. THE ARTICLE WAS ENTITLED, "WASHINGTON
PUSHES SADAT TO EXTREMES." THE PARTS REFERRING TO
U.S. INVOLVEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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RESPONSIBILITIES
THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN ENCOURAGEMENT IS ALSO
PROVED UP TO A POINT BY THE FACTS:
THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS MAINTAINED A STRANGE STAND
TOWARD THE EVENTS OF LARNACA.
THE HIGH POINT OF THIS IS AN ARTICLE IN YESTERDAY'S

WASHINGTON POST ACCORDING TO WHICH A SELECT GROUP OF TWELVE PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS WAS AT ALRNACA AIRPORT AND HELPED THE CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD TO DECIMATE THE EGYPTIANS.

WHAT IS STRANGE IS THAT REUTER REPORTED THE INFORMATION FROM BEIRUT LAST NIGHT THAT ELEVEN SPECIALLY TRAINED PALESTINIANS WERE ACTUALLY SENT TO CYPRUS BUT THEY ARRIVED AT LARNACA AFTER THE INCIDENT WAS OVER.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE THAT REUTER ATTRIBUTES THE INFORMATION TO PALESTINIAN SOURCES WHICH IT AVOIDS SPECIFYING AND THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DESPATCH IS TO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT

BUT OFFICIAL AMERICA HAS ALSO MAINTAINED A STRANGE STAND TOWARD THE EVENTS OF LAST SUNDAY: YESTERDAY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH EXPRESSING HIS SORROW OVER THE EVENTS AND VAGUELY CONDEMNING TERRORIST ACTIONS BUT AVOIDED DEALING WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EVENTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INFORMATION FROM LARNACA MENTIONS THAT THE USA IS ALSO MORE PARTICULARLY RESPONSIBLE SINCE IT WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE LARNACA EVENTS AND HAS SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EGYPTIAN ACTIONS.

DIPLOMATS AT THE UNITED NATIONS -- AND PRINCIPALLY ARABS -- CONSIDERED PRESIDENT SADAT'S CHARACTERIZATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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OF PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU "IMPERMISSIBLE" AND "POLITICALLY WRONG" AND AN ARAB DIPLOMAT COMMENTED THAT THE STAND OF THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT TOWARD CYPRUS "REMINDS ONE OF THE THIEF WHO CRIES TO FRIGHTEN THE LANDLORD." INVOLVEMENT OF THE USA

SPECIFICALLY, THE CORRESPONDENT OF TA NEA IN NICOSIA, MR. T. KOUNAFIS, REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY ATTACHE OF THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN CYPRUS, FAROUK TAKI, IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATION CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE, AMNOON HANOUEK, AND THE ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN NICOSIA, JOHN LUNT, WERE THE COORDINATORS OF THE OPERATION OF THE EGYPTIAN COMMANDOS AT LARNACA AIRPORT. THE AMERICAN MILITARY ATTACHE WAS THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AGENT AND THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE. AND ALL THREE WERE AT LARNACA AIRPORT UNTIL MIDNIGHT SATURDAY, TOGETHER RECONNOITERING THE TERRAIN, WHILE ON SUNDAY, FROM 4 IN THE AFTERNOON, THEY WERE IN CLOSE CONTACT AND DIRECTED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AIRPORT AREA. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INFORMATION, THE SECRET SERVICES OF ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT ARE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION OF SIBAI IN THE FRAMEWORK

OF A BROADER PLAN WITH MR. KYPIANOU AS THE TARGET
AND THE ELEVATION OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S AUTHORITY SO
THAT EGYPTIAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT THE SIGNATURE OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH
ISRAEL ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.

IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT ALTHOUGH SIBAI ACCOMPAINED
THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT TO JERUSALEM, HE WAS NOT
SYMPATHETIC TO SADAT'S SEPARATE MOVE AND HAD BEGUN TO
CREATE CLOSE TIES WITH PRO-NASSER (SIC) CIRCLES.

...." MILLS

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